

*Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement applauding a decision by America's Great Waters Coalition to declare the Hudson Estuary as one of the nation's "Great Waters." The designation recognizes the river's national importance and increases support for the river's restoration.*

"I initiated the Hudson River Estuary program, and fought for three decades to clean up toxic PCBs that were dumped into the Hudson River by General Electric. I also authored the legislation that created the Hudson River Valley Greenway, and later the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

I have spent my entire career fighting to restore and protect the waters and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley and today's declaration is another step forward in that effort. Ensuring that the Hudson River is clean and accessible to the public will improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to this incredibly historic and scenic region. The Hudson Estuary is undoubtedly one of America's "Great Waters," and the announcement of this designation will ensure that it is recognized as such. I applaud the Great Waters Coalition for its designation of the Hudson Estuary, and I look forward to continuing to work with them and our local partners to ensure that the future of the Hudson River Valley is a sustainable and prosperous one."